

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Original) A burner apparatus comprising an inner tube defining a second channel and an outer tube defining a first channel surrounding the inner tube, oxygen-containing gas supplying means for supplying oxygen-containing gas to the first channel and the second channel, and gas supplying means for supplying fuel gas to the first channel and the second channel, either the first channel or the second channel being used as a main combustion channel and the other being used as a pilot combustion channel, the main combustion channel and the pilot combustion channel receiving the supply of fuel gas for combusting it;

wherein a first supply opening for supplying the fuel gas into the main combustion channel is disposed, in the main combustion channel, with an orientation for discharging the fuel gas toward more upstream side of the flow direction of the oxygen-containing gas than the direction normal to the flow direction of the oxygen-containing gas.

30. (Original) The burner apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the first supply opening is disposed, in the main combustion channel, with an orientation for discharging the fuel gas in a direction opposing to the oxygen-containing gas flow direction.

31-48. (Cancelled)